## Message Text

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R 101046Z SEP 75 FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6332

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**EXDIS** 

**AIDAC** 

EO 11652: NA TAGS: NA

SUBJECT: CAIRO VISIT OF CRS ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, MONSIGNOR LANDI

REF: CAIRO 7575

- 1. AS REPORTED REFTEL, WE HAD INVITED SENIOR CRS/NY OFFICIAL TO COME TO EGYPT TO DISCUSS PROPOSED FFW PROGRAMS AND DIFFERING VIEWS OF CRS/EGYPT ON ONE HAND AND EMBASSY/AID ON THE OTHER. IN RESPONSE TO THAT REQUEST, MONSIGNOR LANDI VISITED EGYPT AUGUST 26-28.
- 2. IN SERIES OF AMICABLE, OBJECTIVE MEETINGS, FULL RANGE OF VIEWS WERE DISCUSSED. WE WERE ABLE TO PROVIDE MONSIGNOR LANDI WITH FULL EXPLANATION OF OUR RESERVATIONS REGARDING THE FFW PROPOSALS WHICH HAD BEEN SUBMITTED BY CRS/EGYPT. WE ALSO ASSURED HIM OF OUR CONTINUING, POSITIVE DESIRE TO SEE EFFECTIVE TITLE II PROGRAMS CARRIED OUT IN EGYPT.
- 3. IN THE MEETINGS, MONSIGNOR LANDI QUESTIONED THE CRS/EGYPT DIRECTOR, ANDREW KOVAL, ON EACH OF THE ISSUES WHICH WE RAISED REGARDING THE FFW PROPOSALS. WHILE KOVAL CONTINUED TO DEFEND THE PROPOSED PROJECTS, HE DID SO IN A SUBDUED, LOW-KEYED MANNER. MONSIGNOR LANDI REMAINED LARGELY NONCOMMITTAL REGARDING HIS PERSONAL VIEWS OF THE PROPOSALS.

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4. IN THE FINAL MEETING, MONSIGNOR LANDI ASKED THE AMBASSADOR IF

THERE WOULD BE ANY OBJECTION TO CRS DISCUSSING THE PROPOSALS FURTHER WITH WASHINGTON, ADDING THAT THE QUESTION DID NOT IMPLY THAT CRS WOULD DO SO. THE AMBASSADOR ASSURED HIM THAT WE WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTIONS. BUT THAT WE WOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT OUR BASIC POSITION.

5. WE WERE ALSO ADVISED THAT THE GOE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION HAD RENEWED THEIR REQUEST FOR A CRS SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAM, ASSURING CRS THAT BUDGETED FUNDS WERE NOW AVAILABLE TO THE MINISTRY TO SUPPORT BOTH THE WFP AND CRS PROGRAMS IN THIS FIELD. MONSIGNOR LANDI ASKED WHETHER WE WOULD ENTERTAIN A PROPOSAL FOR SUCH A PROGRAM AND WE SAID THAT WE WOULD ALTHOUGH WE COULD NOT ASSURE HIM THAT WE WOULD BE ABLE TO ENDORSE SUCH A PROGRAM. WE ARE NOW REVIEWING THE PROPOSAL WITH CRS AND WILL REPORT SHORTLY.

6. WE ALSO DISCUSSED WITH MONSIGNOR LANDI OUR CONCERN OVER THE NATURE OF THE LETTER WHICH KOVAL HAD WRITTEN TO THE AMBASSADOR. KOVAL STATED THAT NO PERSONAL ALLEGATIONS HAD BEEN INTENDED, APOLOGIZED FOR ANY SUCH INFERENCES, AND OFFERED TO WITHDRAW THE LETTER. ALL AGREED TO START AFRESH AND GET ON WITH THE TASK OF DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING APPROPRIATE, EFFECTIVE PROGRAMS.

7. IN SUMMARY, WE BELIEVE VISIT WAS WORTHWHILE UNDERTAKING WHICH ACCOMPLISHED THE AIMS WE WERE SEEKING. DECONTROL FOLLOWING 3/10/76. EILTS

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## Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

**Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** Concepts: CLERGYMEN, VISITS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 10 SEP 1975 Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchant0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CAIRO08896

Document Number: 1975CAIRO08896 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Film Number: D750313-0467

From: CAIRO

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750963/aaaacduv.tel Line Count: 86

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Office: ACTION SS

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS Reference: 75 CAIRO 7575

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: buchant0 Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 30 JUL 2003

**Review Event:** 

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <29 DEC 2003 by buchant0>

**Review Markings:** 

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JÚL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:** Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: CAIRO VISIT OF CRS ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, MONSIGNOR LANDI TAGS: EAID, EG, CRS, (LANDI, ANDREW)
To: STATE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006